

Historical houses - NAMED, M-Z  
(Union St)

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, July 9, 1970



In the Duxbury Records, under the heading "Lands sold to defray the charges of building the New Meeting House," is the sale of land to Josiah Soule and Jonathan Peterson, cousins, and grandsons of George Soule, Pilgrim. They bought 150 acres far from the new meeting house their purchase helped finance and far from the Powder Point farms they grew up on. The new farm was near Keene's Brook, in what is now the Ashdod Neighborhood, and here they built homes at the northern end of the land and farmed together for some years, until 1713, when they reached an agreement on a division:

"---that whereas we the said Jonathan Peterson and Josiah Soule, did jointly together purchase in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eight, a certain parcel or tract of land containing an hundred and fifty acres, it being also that tract of land whereon we, the said Jonathan Peterson and Josiah Soule do now dwell, we the said Jonathan Peterson and Josiah Soule have agreed to divide the said land equally between us, that each of us might know his own respective part thereof...."

This agreement shows that although the town voted to sell land in 1706, some was still being sold two years later, when, according to "the said Jonathan Peterson and Josiah Soule," the two cousins bought their tract.

Jonathan's house disappeared many years ago but Josiah's is still standing on his part of the original purchase. It was a small house, probably a Salt Box, with two stories in front and one in the rear under the sloping roof. The hewn timbers were of native wood, of several kinds, worked into a simple but sturdy house. Over the years rooms have been added, buildings moved on, and the roof line changed, but the original part is visible, plain enough to show just how the first house was.

And so, 262 years later, on Union Street, Ashdod, on part of the 150-acre tract, Walter and Ann Kopke live in the house Josiah Soule built in 1708.

Dorothy Wentworth, Researcher